

As the Exec Secretary of the FCC's WARC-79 ARS Advisory Committee, I strongly support retention of the current FCC licensing rules & policy pertaining to the use of Morse Code as specified in this filing. A demonstrated working knowldge and skill of Morse Code communications is vital for the following (of many other) reasons:

1. It provides one of the most dependable communication alternatives for emergency communications in the RF spectrum under mass civilian casualty emergencies (i.e. nuclear events, natural disasters).
 2. It continues to be the most useful mode of communications for disabled medical patients (e.g. strokes) who either have personal knowledge or can receive training in communication via eyes, fingers, or toes.
 3. It remains the most basic and relaible form of emergency communication for either elctromagnetic, visible light, or acoustic media for humans in peril on land, at sea, or in air/space.
 4. It is vital for the USA to continue to foster, develop, and encourage a cadre of Morse-capable operators in the ARS-related Homeland Defense Mission. The use of Morse Code permits them to break down the barriers of foreign language, commercial/government telecommunication failures, and other electromagnetic anomalies certain to be major problems during all future wide-scale disasters.
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